

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: REQUEST FOR SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ON SEATO

REF: SAIGON 14930 (NOTAL); BANGKOK 12963 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARY HAS MADE NO REMARKS RECENTLY ABOUT SEATO, EITHER IN PRESS CONFERENCE OR INTERVIEWS. NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE AUGUST 14 BY BERNARD GWERTZMAN SIMPLY ASSOCIATED SECRETARY'S NAME WITH PLANS FOR FORTHCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

2. TEXT OF PORTION OF GWERTZMAN ARTICLE CONCERNING SEATO IS AS FOLLOWS (FULL ARTICLE POUCHED BANGKOK AUGUST 15)
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QUOTE: SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS PLANS TO MEET WITH ENVOYS FROM THE OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBERS IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH TO PUT STRESS ON THE NON-MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE 19-YEAR-OLD ORGANIZATION AS A WAY OF KEEPING IT ALIVE, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

QUOTE: THE DECISION TO REDUCE THE TRADITIONAL MILITARY EMPHASIS OF SEATO HAS BEEN DISCUSSED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH THE OTHER ACTIVE MEMBERS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE FORMAL WHEN MR. ROGERS MEETS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND ON SEPT. 28.

QUOTE: THEY WILL BE IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH FOR THE START OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

QUOTE: THIS NONMILITARY EMPHASIS WILL MAKE OFFICIAL WHAT HAS BEEN THE TREND FOR SOME TIME. EXCEPT FOR THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES, THE OTHER SEATO MEMBERS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THE ALLIANCE. DURING THE VIET-NAM WAR, FOR INSTANCE, DESPITE STRONG AMERICAN PRESSURE, ONLY TOKEN SUPPORT WAS GIVEN TO THE AMERICAN EFFORT IN SOUTH VIET-NAM BY SEATO MEMBERS.

QUOTE: MOREOVER, EXCEPT FOR THAILAND, THE OTHER SEATO MEMBERS ALREADY HAVE MUTUAL SECURITY PACTS WITH THE UNITED STATES, MAKING SEATO MILITARILY SOMEWHAT SUPERFLUOUS.

QUOTE: THE NEW APPROACH TO SEATO HAS THE SUPPORT OF OTHER ALLIANCE MEMBERS, OFFICIALS SAID. THE MEMBERS REPORTEDLY SEE IT AS A MEANS OF KEEPING SEATO ALIVE AT A TIME OF DIMINISHED AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND OF PROPOSALS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE TO ABOLISH THE ORGANIZATION.

QUOTE: IN A SENSE, ONE OFFICIAL SAID, THE NEW APPROACH REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE VIEW OF THAILAND, WHICH REGARDS SEATO AS A MAJOR ELEMENT IN HER DEFENSE POLICY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THAT OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WHICH HAVE INDICATED, A LOW INTEREST IN THE ORGANIZATION.

QUOTE: IT WAS TO COPE WITH THE FORESEEN POLITICAL UPHEVALS IN INDOCHINA THAT THE SEATO ALLIANCE WAS SET UP. THE ACTIVATING TREATY WAS SIGNED IN MANILA ON SEPT. 8, 1954, BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, THE PHILIPPINES

AND THAILAND. FRANCE HAS BEEN INACTIVE FOR YEARS AND PAKISTAN ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR THAT SHE WAS QUITTING THE ORGANIZATION.

QUOTE: ARTICLE IV OF THE TREATY SAYS THAT IN CASE OF AGGRESSION, EACH PARTY QUOTE WILL IN THAT EVENT ACT TO MEET THE COMMON DANGER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. UNQUOTE.

QUOTE: IT IS THE ONLY CODUMENT LINKING THE UNITED STATES TO AN OBLIGATION TO GO TO THAILAND'S AID THOUGH THE WORDING IS SUCH THAT CONGRESS MIGHT BE ABLE TO BLOCK SUCH ASSISTANCE.

QUOTE: STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT THAILAND ALLOWED THE UNITED STATES TO USE AIR BASES IN HER TERRITORY BECAUSE OF THE SEATO TREATY, AND ALSO BECAUSE OF HER VIEW THAT SUCH AN AMERICAN PRESENCE SERVED AS A PROTECTION. BECAUSE OF THAILAND'S INTEREST IN SEATO, THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN BANGKOK.

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES ON MANY OCCASIONS HAS AFFIRMED ITS ALLEGIANCE TO SEATO, BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THERE WAS LITTLE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS FOR CONTINUATION OF A MILITARY A-LIANCE.

QUOTE: AS THE RESULT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT INCREASED STRESS WILL NOW BE PUT ON ARTICLE III OF THE TREATY CALLING UPON THE SIGNATORIES QUOTE TO COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC MEASURES, INCLUDING TECH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DESIGNED BOTH TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRESS AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND TO FURTHER THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TOWARD THESE ENDS. UNQUOTE.

QUOTE: THE THAIS, WHO HAVE BEEN SEEKING INCREASED ECONOMIC AID, ARE SAID BY OFFICIALS TO WELCOME THE NEW APPROACH AS PRESERVING THE SECURITY LINK TO THE UNITED STATES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LEADING TO A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN AID. UNQUOTE.

3. GWERTZMAN ARTICLE MISLEADING FOR USE IN BRIEFING GVN FORMIN IN THAT IT INDICATES POSSIBLE INCREASE IN SEATO AID WHICH UNLIKELY AND DOES NOT STRESS SUFFICIENTLY THE CURRENT CONSULTATIONS AMONG SEATO MEMBERS FOR STREAMLINING THE SEATO ORGANIZATION ON THE BASIS OF A RECENT

REVIEW MADE BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. SUGGEST EMBASSY
BANGKOK CABLE TEXT SEC GEN SUNTHORN'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
REGARDING PURPOSE UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING FOR USE BY
EMBASSY SAIGON IN DISCUSSIONS WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS.

4. FOR SAIGON: ANSWERS TO YOUR OTHER INQUIRIES
(SAIGON 14942, 14947, 15010, AND 15074) WILL BE SENT
SEPTELS. ROGERS

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